

In the drawings:

Please amend FIG. 10 as indicated on the attached mark-up sheet and replacement sheet. The amendment deletes "inverse frequency transformation" in step 308 and substitutes "quantization processing". This amendment corrects a clerical error in FIG. 10 and brings FIG. 10 into conformance with page 27, lines 1-4 of the specification.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are present in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are amended herein.

In claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, the following changes in terminology have been made:

"first and second decompression processing" is replaced by "first part of decompression processing and second part of decompression processing"

"first decompression processing units" is replaced by "first part decompression processing units".

"second decompression processing unit" is replaced by "second part decompression processing unit".

The division of decompression processing into first decompression processing and second decompression processing is consistently used throughout the specification, meaning that decompression processing is divided into a first "part" of decompression processing and a second "part" of decompression processing. That the decompression processing is divided into two parts is clear. Therefore the amendments to the claims using the word "part" is justified, since it is inherent in the specification. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §101 for not being limited to statutory subject matter.

Claims 14, 15 and 16, as amended, are apparatus claims and are thus believed to comply with 35 USC §101. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, at least at page 9 line 20 through page 11 line 6, and at page 22 line 19 through page 23 line 4, and at page 26 lines 8-16, and in Figures 2 and 9.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 USC §101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 is amended by deleting his word "third" in all places that it occurs, and by adding "said decompression processing unit performing the decompression processing to obtain non-compressed data." Support for this amendment is to be found in the specification at least at 5 lines 14-15 and at page 5 line 25 through page 6 line 5, and at page 30 lines 6-22. In particular, at page 30, we find, beginning at line 9 "...in a case where the compressed audio data itself can be synthesized..the

decompression processing sections 34 and 35 shown in Figure 2...can be omitted..."

Claims 9 and 10 are believed to comply with 35 USC §112. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Simard et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,940,826.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claims 1, 11, 14; these claims require a first part of decompression processing be performed by first part decompression processing units that output intermediate data, (data that is intermediate between compressed data and non-compressed data) for input into a synthesizer. The advantage being that not all of decompression processing need be performed before synthesis.

Simard on the other hand shows decompression units 74 that receive compressed data, perform complete decompression and output non-compressed data to a mixer 76. (Fig. 7).

With regard to claims 3, 13 and 16: these claims require, after synthesis of data, compression that is the inverse of first part of decompression processing.

Simard, on the other and, shows a compression unit 78 in Fig. 7, that clearly performs compression that is the inverse of complete decompression that took place in decompression units 74.

As to claim 5; the rejection fails for the reason stated with regard to claim 1.

Based on the discussion above it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yekutiely.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner identifies element 27 in Fig. 2 of Yekutiely as a synthesis unit that synthesizes a plurality of compressed data received from the audio board 11. In fact element 27 in Fig. 2 is labeled "Audio/mixer" and receives no compressed data, but rather sends and receives analog signals including audio and DTMF signals to and from the audio board 11 via audio I/O ports 12 and 13.

The Examiner further identifies element 21 labeled "DTMF decoder" in Fig. 2 of Yekutiely with a decompression processing unit for performing decompression processing for compressed data that has undergone synthesis in the synthesis unit identified as "audio/mixer" 21. In fact the "DTMF decoder" 21 receives no

compressed data from the "Audio/mixer" 21 or from anywhere else, and does not perform decompression processing.

Based on this discussion, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2, 7, 8, 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simard et al. and further in view of Yekutiely.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states, in part:

As per claims 2, 12 and 15 Simard teaches the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 14, however fails to teach a system wherein second decomposition processing unit that performs the second decompression processing with respect to intermediate data output from the synthesis unit. However, Yekutiely teaches the above limitation of having a second decompression-processing unit [Fig. 2, element 21] that performs the second decompression processing with respect to intermediate data output from the synthesis unit [Fig. 2, element 27, "mixer"].

Simard does not teach the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 14. Rather Simard discloses a plurality of decompression units 74 that output non-compressed data to a mixer 76 that in turn outputs mixed non-compressed data to a compression unit 78 (Simard Fig. 7).

Yekutiely does not disclose a second decompression unit for performing a second part of decompression processing. Rather,

Yekutiely discloses an Audio/Mixer unit 27 that receives analog data and outputs analog data to DTMF decoder 21.

The teachings of Simard taken together with the teachings of Yekutiely do not disclose or suggest the invention claimed in claims 2, 12 and 15.

As regards claims 7 and 8; In rejecting these claims, the Examiner relies on the same combination of Simard and Yekutiely that has been shown above to fail.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 7, 8, 12 and 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simard et al. and further in view of Fujiwara et al.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Simard et al. teaches the limitations of Claim 1. In fact, as shown above, Simard et al. does not show the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 6 does not succeed.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4 and 6 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and

notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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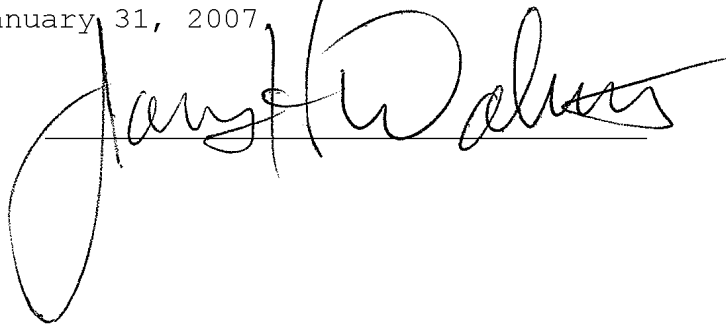


FIG. 10

